

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 27-33, and 41-58 were pending. Claims 1-7, 27-33, 41-43, 49-51, and 57-58 were rejected. Claims 44-48 and 52-56 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In this response, claims 3-4, 29-30, 44, and 52 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5, 27, 31, 45-46, 53-54, and 57-58 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of claims 3-4 and 44. Independent claim 27 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of claims 29-30 and 52. As a result, independent claims 1 and 27 are allowable. Similarly to claim 1, independent claims 57-58 have been amended to include substantially all limitations of claims 3-4 and 44. Therefore, independent claims 57-58 are also allowable.

Applicant has also amended claims 1, 27, and 57-58 to overcome 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejections. The rest of the amended claims have been amended for proper dependency, leaving all allowable claims. While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims that were objected to.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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